

**From:** Ron or Cecelia Oxford  
**To:** 'microsoft.atr@usdoj.gov'  
**Date:** 1/24/02 1:01pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear DoJ,

Today I received the Microsoft Freedom to Innovate Newsletter, the following is an excerpt I have taken from it, to which I totally agree with their viewpoint;

"Microsoft has not completed a review of the lawsuit, and therefore cannot comment on specific allegations at this time. We can note, however, that AOL purchased Netscape for \$10 billion dollars in the midst of the DoJ trial, even after hearing concrete evidence that IE's success in the market was based on merit, not market share. This latest legal move appears to be an attempt by AOL to once again retreat from the rigors of competition to the safer confines of the courtroom, where the company is clearly more comfortable.

Microsoft is disappointed, though not surprised, that AOL has again chosen litigation. Microsoft has tried consistently to work more closely with AOL in a variety of areas, including improvement of instant messaging interoperability, getting fair and open access to AOL's dominant cable assets and partnering on technology standards that are key to developing future innovative technologies.

AOL has repeatedly rebuffed Microsoft's efforts, to the detriment of consumers and the technology industry, and has turned to politics and litigation instead. But more litigation is the last thing consumers and the industry need. AOL and Microsoft need to focus on market competition and technical cooperation that will make consumers' computing experience easier, not spend further time and resources in the nation's courtrooms."

It is truly not in the best interest of the country in general, past, present and future consumers, or even people who have never been a consumer of software to allow such a trial to take place. It is true Microsoft has won dominance in the market place with it's Windows operating system and associated Browser. I believe, not through "shady dealings", but through solid innovation and sound business practices. Every corporation in the world strives for market dominance, if they didn't, why stay in business. The fact that AOL lost....GEE too bad, they should have tried harder, and the courtroom is not where they should be trying harder.

It is embarrassing that a company the size of AOL-Time Warner/Netscape has to attempt to use the courts to try to gain what it can't in the market place. All the while claiming that it is doing this in the name of protection for the consumer. The damage to consumers and the general economy alike is being done by AOL, through these senseless on ongoing

litigations. We the investing public have lost billions thanks to these lawsuits and trials, not to mention what they have contributed to the overall recessionary bent of the economy. It seems to me that, we, the public should be suing AOL for damages for what this has cost us.

If the Federal Government really wants to intervene in private business, the time and place to do so is here. Put a screaching halt to these ridiculous trials, send AOL back to the drawing board and let the country get back to recovering from this recession. Microsoft should not be blamed for AOL's inadequacies.

I hope my voice will make a difference,

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